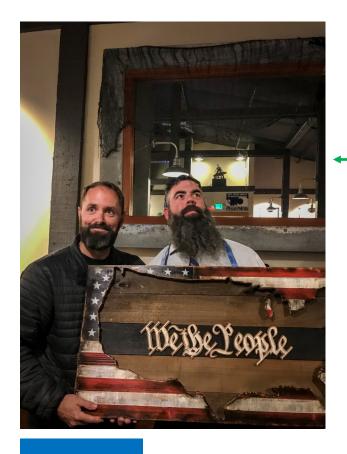


23rd Infantry Regiment Tomahawk Association

2017-2018 Annual Report



Vice President John Blue hands over a wooden American flag made by a former 1st Battalion Soldier, Aerilio Caserez, as a raffle prize during this year's 153rd Regimental Birthday party.

This report highlights the 23rd IRTA's last two years of operations from 2017 -2018. In order to provide an up-to-date picture of the association, it also includes information on major initiatives and, where available, updated data through fall of 2019.

MISSION

The 23rd Infantry Regiment Tomahawk Association maintains a record of the history and accomplishments of this historic Regiment and its Battalions. We work to maintain a close liaison and relationship with our active Battalions and their Soldiers, while striving to further develop the bond between them and those that have served with the 23rd Infantry in the past.

MEMBERSHIP

The 23rd Infantry Regiment Tomahawk Association has 82 members, including active duty Soldiers, Veterans, and Retirees from across the country and around the world. It is for anyone who has ever served in the Regiment, any of its Battalions, or served in a unit that was attached during both peace and times of war. The Association was organized at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington in September 2013. Our members have trained hard during peace time operations, and have fought ferociously during combat operations in support of the Korean War, Vietnam, the Cold War, and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, while living up to our motto, "We Serve." develop the bond between them and those that have served with the 23rd Infantry in the past.

Dear Tomahawks,

Happy New Year to all of the Tomahawk Association Members, both retired and on active duty. Our Motto: WE SERVE, continues to guide the active men and women soldiers of this great Regiment. As most of you know, the 23rd Infantry Regiment is one of the oldest in the U.S. Army and has set the standard for victory from the civil war to the war on terror. As your Honorary Regimental Colonel I want you all to know that I am busy attending as many events with the active units as I can. I recently attended a change of command ceremony for the 2nd Battalion Commander at Fort Carson, and also spoke with a group of Tomahawk Warriors at Fort Irwin before they started their training. My message continues to be: "You soldiers are the best that America has to offer, and be proud to be a soldier". You Tomahawk Warriors of today are carrying on the tradition set forth by all the Tomahawks that came before you, and you have that burden to carry and to be prepared to go into battle and win. From what I have seen from your commanders, non commissioned officers and the sol-

diers, you are prepared. That is want the Infantry does, and has done for decades. A word to the veterans of our storied Regiment. You served with distinction and need to continue to be the "backup" for our active duty soldiers. I can tell you they are the best trained, best led and best prepared that the Army has ever

produced. If you get the chance to be with any of them, talk to them, praise them, as it is the current active duty Tomahawks who are protecting our Freedoms. I wish the best to all of you, and hope to see you in the coming year.

LTC (R) Fred Drew. Honorary Colonel of the U.S. Army 23rd Infantry Regiment. "WE SERVE"



From Our Vice President

Tomahawks,

Happy New Year to all of our Tomahawk Association Members. We hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during this tough time our Nation, and the World, is experiencing with COVID-19.

As you know, the Association is established as a non-profit military service organization with a comprehensive Constitution and set of By-laws. The objectives are to promote a high esprit de corps among the members of the Regiment, provide opportunities and facilities uniting past and present members of the Regiment in a program dedicated to the preservation of traditions and history of the 23rd Infantry. The Association also strives to maintain a close liaison and relationship with our active Battalions and their Soldiers, while working to further develop the bond between them and those that have served with the 23rd Infantry in the past.

The Association is self-sustaining with no financial assistance from any source other than the membership. Annual and life membership dues, together with donations, are the primary source of financing to support our activities and that is why this Annual Report is so important.



Lastly, the Association belongs to its members. It has a webpage, Facebook page, and a LinkedIn account to communicate with and encourage dialog with each other. Each of these social media accounts continues to evolve, and as they do, we would like to hear any comments or suggestions you may have on any aspect of the Association. More importantly, we encourage your participation in the Association activities and committees. If you are interested in getting involved, please feel free to reach out to us at <u>t23rdinfantryassociation@yahoo.com</u>

CSM(R) John Blue Vice President 23rd IRTA "WE SERVE"

Taco Puta, owned and operated by a former 1st Battalion Soldier, Andre Cruell, provided the food service during the 153rd Birthday Party at Narrow's Brewing Company.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2017-2018

INCOME	
Fund Raising/Sales	\$710.93
Donations	\$10,000
Pay/Pal	\$446.05
Other	\$634.09
Total:	\$15,761.07

ASSETS	
Checking	\$7,41208
PayPal	\$4500.45
Certificates of Deposit	\$6,500.00
Cash on Hand	\$0.00
Total:	\$18,412.53

EXPENSES	
Holiday	\$850.00
Ceremonies	\$800.00
Dining Inn/Ball's	\$4,500.00
Reimbursements	\$252.00
Media	\$202.00
Insurance	\$336.96
Other	\$169.00
Total:	\$7,109.96

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$00.00
Outstanding Bills	\$0.00
Total:	\$00.00

A Tomahawk Soldiers stands tall with the National Colors during the 2019 Chipyong-ni Ceremony by the memorial rock located at 1st Battalion's HQs.



BECAUSE OF YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 23rd Infantry Regiment Tomahawk Association over the last couple of years. Our corporate and individual donors are vital partners as we all work together to ensure that the history and accomplishments of this historic Regiment and its Battalions are maintained. Your gift to the 23rd IRTA enables us to advance our strategic goal for the association; provide financial support to the battalions during ceremonies, balls, and dining ins; and provide commissary gift cards to Soldiers during the Holiday Season.

ASSOCIATION ADVOCATES

\$10,000.00 and above

\$1,000 to \$5,000

Veteran Outdoors

Commissary gift cards getting ready to be delivered to the battalions to support Soldiers in need during the Thanksgiving Holiday Season.



\$1.00 to \$999.00

Fresh Northwest Design

Narrow's Brewing Company

Daniel Reynolds

Charles Rogers

Ronica Sobiech

David Larson

Michael Robinson

Damon Armeni

Samantha Fuentes

Cedric Hedrington

Brendan Spangler

Kevin McCallum

Gabriel Pecan

Joshua Bernier

Matthew Correia

Craig Tackett

Michael Nielson

James Denton

Birgit Bons

Malinda Johnston

Nathan Hepfer

Dylan Ward

Greg Frias

BECAUSE OF YOU

CURRENT MEMBERS

GOLD STAR MEMBERS

Jacques Moreau Emil Stryker

Stephanie Groepper Charles Main

John McCutchen Vetra Main

William Heddleson

LIFE MEMBERS

ACTIVE DUTY ANNUAL MEMBERS Ronald Frontz

Chad Laughter Frederick Drew

Randolph Rotte Tommy Hicks

Darrin Carroll Daniel Gonzales

James Denton Thomas Parr

Mike Kendall

ANNUAL MEMBERS Karl Heller

Joshua Lewis James Anibas

Clay Williams Robert (Bob) Haynes

George Lewis Paul Mikolashek

Edward Kaufmann John Yanikov

Ernest Bradley II Robert Walls

2 10 68

Korean War Members Vietnam War Members OIF/OEF Members

BECAUSE OF YOU

LIFE MEMBERS

Stanley Sobiech

Clifford Pederson

Chuck Hodges

Eric Volk Matthew Gilbert Ryan Patrick

Patrick Traver Robert Miller Tom Feltey

Michael Ellis Alexander Balk Roy Starbeck

Michael Robinson **Jess Spiers** Corey Crosbie

Clifford Cogdill

Ryan Barnett

Robert Craven

Shawn Scheirer **Christopher Burritt** Shaun McIntyre

John Blue Daniel Beard Randall King

Mahtew Payne Daniel Bauder **Brad Kelley**

Adam Asclipiadis Danid Kendall Kent Park Benjamin Dalton

Michael Minnis Kenneth Burt Michael Vassell

Nicholas McDermott James Milligan **Toby Nunn**

James Mapes Joseph Ewers Hau Sun

Robert "Bob" Beal **Robert Swift** Steven Mann

William James Charles Harris

Charles Hoisington Donald Taitano

Aaron McKee

Benjamin Herman **Teddy Kleisner**

Nathan Hepfer Sean Kavanagh

Jason Hass Dan Rayca

Colin Gilman Matthew Tom

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

""The day of the breakthrough which began the Battle of the Bulge found us starting a new attack. We were going pretty good and although it was rough, we have taken a lot of ground. All of a sudden, the Germans broke through on our flanks, and on the verge of being trapped, we fought our way out and pulled back under continuous shelling. We set a new record for the number of rounds fired. Often our guns heated and jammed." - T/5 Daniel J. Mascolo, a member of Battery B, 38th Field Artillery Battalion

Since December 13, 1944, the 2nd Infantry Division was pushing forward in its task to seize strategically key dams on the Roer River. The 9th Infantry Regiment that led the attack was stopped near the key crossroads in a densely forested area at Wahlerscheid on the Belgian-German border. These intersections were protected by a system of 24 pillboxes and also 200 yard wide minefields with several rows of barbed wires. Men of the 9th Infantry Regiment and later 38th Infantry Regiment tried to take control over Wahlerscheid Crossroads during three days and nights of frightful fighting. The days were full of horror and death, when men were killed by machinegun fire from German pillboxes or found death in a minefield. During the nights, men literally froze to death in their trenches and their limbs were frost-bitten as they had to stay in deep snow. Finally, one of the patrols managed to break through the German defensive line between pillboxes and a major attack of the 9th Infantry Regiment was scheduled for the morning of December 16, 1944.

"At 05:30 a.m. a tremendous artillery barrage opened up to the east. It was noticed by everyone; however, little attention was paid to it since the Battalion was ready to assault at daybreak. By 10:00 a.m. 24 pillboxes had been cleared within this sector. The 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry, passed through the 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry, and continued the attack to secure the Division objective previously stated." - Captain John A. Frye, a 2nd Battalion S-3, 9th Infantry Regiment

On the afternoon and evening of December 16 the 2nd Infantry Division received orders from higher headquarters that its units would continue their attack on December 17. Also the 3rd Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Regiment was moved to aid the attack on Roer River dams. No one knew about the impending danger and the real extent of the German offensive that was launched that day on December 16, 1944. Both 9th and 38th Infantry Regiments were now far out behind the enemy's line with their orders to continue in attack while several times stronger enemy was pushing all around and successfully penetrated deeply in the sectors of the 99th and the 106th Infantry Divisions.

days and nights in snow and cold, will be able to withdraw back almost 10 miles by foot. Their only route back was under constant enemy fire and their strongly determined enemy was so close. The next four days of December 1944 will be indelibly written into the history of the 2nd Infantry Division."

REGIMENTAL HISTORY

The situation was enormously critical and there was a real danger that the entire 2nd and the 99th Infantry Divisions would be captured and destroyed. General Walter M. Robertson, the 2nd Division Commander, and his staff recognized the imminent danger and prepared an alternate plan of moving to a strong defensive positions covering the main supply route in effort to save the 9th and 38th Infantry Regiments and to protect the whole Division's sector. The 23rd Infantry Regiment and even Division's rear echelons were prepared to hold until the 9th and 38th Infantry Regiments could pull back and establish a defensive line at Krinkelt and Rocherath villages. A fateful battle began not only with the enemy but also with time. It was unclear whether the exhausted and weakened men of these regiments, who spent four days and nights in snow and cold, will be able to withdraw back almost 10 miles by foot. Their only route back was under constant enemy fire and their strongly determined enemy was so close. The next four days of December 1944 will be indelibly written into the history of the 2nd Infantry Division."

Information collected from: https://www.facebook.com/menofthe2ndinfantrydivision/

Research done by: Nathan Hepfer 23rd IRTA Historian

Infantrymen of the 2nd Division move up towards Krinkelt, Belgium. © 2019 <u>Joedemadio's</u>

<u>WW2 History Travel Blog – Perkins Theme</u>



23rd IRTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

Jim Mapes

President

John Blue

Vice President

Mike Kendall

Secretary

Craig Haff

Treasurer

TRUSTEES

H. Charles Hodges Jr.

Trustee

Mike Robinson

Trustee

George Castro

Trustee

Nor Currently Filled

Trustee

MORE THAN 3,000
REACHED ON FACEBOOK

DONATED \$1,500.00 TO THE BATTAIONS IN SUPPORT OF CHIPYONG-NI CEREMONY

PROVIDED 75 x \$50.00 COMMISSARY GIFT CARDS

\$4000.00 IN SUPPORT OF DINING INS/BALL'S